

REMARKS

Claims 3-20, 23-33 and 36-47 remain in this application. Claims 1, 2, 21, 22, 34 and 35 have been canceled, and claims 3-10, 12, 20, 25-32 and 36-47 have been amended.

Claims 12-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph for the reasons set forth at section 2 of the Office Action. Applicants submit that the above amendment to independent claim 12 overcomes this rejection since antecedent basis is now provided for the claimed functional group.

Claims 1-8, 10, 12-17, 19-30, 32-45 and 47 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting based on U.S. Patent No. 6,209,547 ("Koller") as set forth in numbered paragraph 4, on pages 2-3 of the Official Action. Claims 9, 11, 18, 31 and 46 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness type double patenting as being unpatentable over Koller in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,892,719 ("Gesser"). Applicants will submit a Terminal Disclaimer and Statement Under §3.73 to overcome these rejections in due course.

Claims 1, 2, 5-8, 21, 22, 26, 28-30, 34, 35, 39-41 and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,300,577 ("Horsewell"). Claims 9, 31 and 46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Horsewell and further in view of Gesser. These rejections are moot in view of the cancellation of Claims 1, 2, 21, 22, 34 and 35 and amendment of Claims 5-9 to depend from allowed Claim 3, amendment of Claim 26 to depend from

allowed Claim 25, amendment of Claims 28-31 to depend from allowed Claim 23, and amendment of Claims 39-41, 45 and 46 to depend from allowed Claim 38.

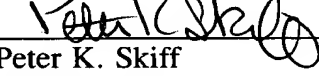
Claims 3, 4, 10-20, 23-25, 27, 32, 33, 36-38, 42-44 and 47 were not rejected over prior art. All of these claims have either been amended into independent form to include all of the features from their base claims and any intervening claims, or they depend from the resulting allowable independent claims.

In view of the above amendments to the claims, and the enclosed Terminal Disclaimer, all remaining claims are now in condition for allowance. Prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: February 27, 2004

By: 
Peter K. Skiff
Registration No. 31,917

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620